

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. CARDOZA: Page 65, line 17, insert after the first dollar amount “(reduced by \$14,295,000)”.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Chairman, I ask to withdraw the amendment that I just brought forward.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CARDOZA

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. CARDOZA:

Page 65, line 17, insert after the first dollar amount “(reduced by \$8,000,000)”.

Page 65, line 25, insert after the first dollar amount “(increased by \$6,000,000)”.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Chairman, shortly into my tenure as a Member of Congress in 2003 the General Services Administration, the GSA, notified me that my office space at the Bell Station in Merced, California, which I shared with the post office and the IRS would no longer be available for lease.

My office was in an historic building, and, most importantly, I was conveniently located downtown for my constituents. Despite my vigorous protests, I was literally kicked out of the Federal building.

If that wasn't enough of a slap in the face to my constituents and myself, 2 years later the GSA declared the Bell Station post office to be surplus property. The GSA closed the post office with no rhyme or reason and started to dispose of it, with no community input and no plan to replace our post office.

The GSA's handling of this situation was deplorable. The GSA turned a deaf ear to my constituents and ignored the needs of a local community.

In my 4½ years in Congress, nothing has elicited as many phone calls and letters and editorials to my local paper than the GSA's handling of post office closure in my hometown.

The GSA's blatant disregard for a community's needs hasn't only occurred in my district. This has been repeated with reckless abandon in districts across the country.

Make no mistake about it. This can happen to any Member of this Con-

gress, and every community across America is at risk.

Three local entities in my home county attempted to obtain a historic building from GSA for public benefit use.

However, in the blink of an eye, and without advance notice to the applicants, the GSA reversed course. The GSA indicated it would put the building out for public auction and sell it to the highest bidder.

I have confirmed with the GSA experts that the GSA's activities are not only inconsistent with its mission, but are also well outside proper protocol.

I have made countless efforts to work with the GSA to rectify this situation in my district so that local communities can obtain the building. My repeated requests have been ignored. The GSA even refused to respond to a simple letter I wrote until I submitted amendments to this bill that would cut the GSA budget by 10 percent.

After panic set in at GSA, GSA sent a useless response that doesn't address a single one of my concerns, and leaves just enough wiggle room to back out of any promise of working with the original applicants. The GSA then delivered to a letter to other Capitol Hill offices, not to my own. When I was told that GSA representatives were in the Cannon Building today, they didn't even have the common courtesy to speak to me or my staff.

Mr. Chairman, this reeks of mismanagement. It shows a lack of oversight and accountability at GSA.

My amendment is very simple. It provides an additional \$6 million to GSA's Office of the Inspector General. It is paid for by cutting the GSA's policy and operations account, including the Office of the Administrator and the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

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The Inspector General will ensure that the agency is operating in the best interest of taxpayers and is not beholden to the political process or to special interests.

It is absolutely critical that the Inspector General's office has the tools and resources it needs to hold the agency accountable for its actions. And it is critical that we, as Members of Congress, ensure that government is meeting the needs of our communities.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I agree with the gentleman that the Office of Inspector General at the GSA needs adequate funds to operate. But, Chairman SERRANO's mark provided a level of funds that is both responsible and sufficient for the OIG.

In the fiscal year 2007 continuing resolution, the Congress provided \$6 mil-

lion in additional funds to the OIG. They were not able to spend these funds in the fiscal year, and have asked for the authority to assess them in fiscal year 2008. This authority has been granted by the committee.

Chairman SERRANO has made funding the Office of Inspector General and the other oversight offices one of his highest priorities in this bill. I commend him for his work, and oppose this attempt to change the committee mark.

I question the ability of the OIG to spend these additional funds this year, and I reiterate the fact that this was taken care of in the previous legislation. Therefore, I urge the defeat of this amendment.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I understand that the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) will agree to not offer his other amendment, which would call for deeper cuts to the account, if this one is agreed to.

I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CARDOZA. The gentleman from New York is correct. I will be happy to withdraw my other amendment if, in fact, we adopt this amendment that is more acceptable to the committee.

Mr. SERRANO. In that case, Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment as offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General and service authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$47,382,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$15,000 shall be available for payment for information and detection of fraud against the Government, including payment for recovery of stolen Government property: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for awards to employees of other Federal agencies and private citizens in recognition of efforts and initiatives resulting in enhanced Office of Inspector General effectiveness.

#### ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT FUND

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses in support of inter-agency projects that enable the Federal Government to expand its ability to conduct activities electronically, through the development and implementation of innovative uses of the Internet and other electronic methods, \$2,970,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That these funds may be transferred to Federal agencies to carry out the purposes of the Fund: *Provided further*,